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Monday, February 15, 2016

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Iranian Woman Spares Attacker Acid Punishment

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Ameneh Bahrami Nava (right) spared her attacker, Majid Movahedi (center), from receiving acid in both eyes live on Iranian television.

Last updated (GMT/UTC): 02.08.2011 12:21

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An Iranian woman who was blinded and badly disfigured in an acid attack has stopped a **retributive blinding sentence** from being carried out on her attacker at the last moment.

"He was standing in the hospital operating room and the doctor was about to put acid in his eyes. It was that moment when I said, 'No, I don't want this,'" Amenah Bahrami told RFE/RL's Radio Farda.

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The sentence of "retribution in kind" called for five drops of sulfuric acid to be put in each of Majid Movahedi's eyes for the 2004 incident, when the spurned suitor poured a bucket of acid on Bahrami, ultimately leaving her blind and forcing her to undergo at least 17 operations.

But as the acid was about to be applied by a doctor in a live broadcast on Iranian state television on July 31, Bahrami spared him the punishment.

"The Koran gives you the right to retribution," Bahrami told RFE/RL. "But this very Koran also encourages you to pardon, since pardoning is one of the highest moral standards."

Movahedi said Bahrami was "very generous," but she said her attacker "hasn't changed one bit. This person is still dangerous for society. I think a person like Majid Movahedi should be kept in prison until the last moment of

his life."

Despite the protests raised against the cruel and inhumane nature of the retributive punishment by Iranian and international rights groups, Bahrami had insisted on it being carried out. Even after sparing Movahedi, she said she had no regrets in doing so.

"Other victims after me might decide for the sentence of retribution to be carried out on their attackers, some might drop it," she said. "I only wanted to get such a sentence for [the attacker]."



Ameneh Bahrami holds up a photo of herself from before the attack.

Bahrami also said she still wanted financial compensation from Movahedi's family. "I was told that since you're a woman, you're entitled to half of the total amount of 200 million tomans [almost \$200,000], which is 100 million tomans. But Movahedi's family so far hasn't paid me even that."

She said Movahedi's father said he had a house worth 100 million tomans and that he could give her 50 million. "I don't need 50 million. The blood money is 200 million and I want all of that," she said.

Bahrami also rejected the idea that she should only get half as much compensation because she was a woman. "I am a full person and I am entitled to full amount of the blood money," she said.

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Comments

by: **trkesq** from: **California - USA**

August 01, 2011 22:58

What kind of "doctor" would intentionally blind another human? Do Iranian medical schools have specialists in mutilation? I have never heard of anyone coming from the Middle East to the Mayo Clinic for treatment intended to cause blindness or any other serious torture. Must not be too much in demand.

In Response

by: **tom bragen** from: **bayonne, new jersey**

August 03, 2011 02:47

Looking at this woman before and after, you can see why some form of punishment for her attacker is warranted. Her beautiful smile is gone. Her ability to see a sunset, or set eyes on her children has been taken away from her, forever. He is not remorseful nor to my knowledge repentant. Women are vassals, pawns to be used, abused, and thrown away. Maybe if he received the same punishment

that he so freely brought on her, men in Iran may think twice about doing such a bastardly, inhumane act again. That is not a bad thing.

by: **Keyvan Abdi** from: **Amsterdam**
August 02, 2011 14:15

Hi,
It is very sad to see this and I just got the news from Iran that she forgave her attacker which I think she shouldn't have done this.

I know there is a guy in Tabriz Mr. Mehdi Farshkar Gholizadeh who killed his 2 sons 13 and 9 but because his family has influence in the regime there is no news about this event.

Keyvan

by: **Ghazal Omid** from: **Washington DC**
August 04, 2011 21:36

What a Remarkable woman!

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